

All Want The Best

of everything. In whiskey you get it in

Baltimore

in quality, age, purity or flavor. Test by taste; you'll take it.



DAVID NICHOLSON, St. Louis, Mo.

BIG FOUR ROUTE

Dec. 24, 25, 31, Jan. I, Return Jan. 4. TICKET OFFICES: Broadway and

Chestnut: Union Station.

SHOE WHOLESALERS TO MEET

Expected That One Hundred and Fifty Delegates Will Attend.

Members of the Western Association of Shoe Wholesalers, which includes the shoe manufacturers and jobbers in the territory as far east as Cleveland and Cincinnati, as far north as Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul, and as far west as Denver, Omaha and Kansas City, will hold their annual meeting at the Planters' Hotel January 5. meeting at the Planters' Hotel January 5.

To the evening and the following day they will be the guests of the St. Louis shoe manufacturers and jobbers and wholesale rubber boot and shoe dealers. They will be entertained at dinner at the Mercantile Club. On the 6th they will take luncheon at the World's Fair grounds and inspect the Fair, also visiting other points of interest in the city.

From 100 to 150 guests are expected, consisting of the most representative men in the wholesale boot and shoe business. This will be one of the most important meetings held by this association.

when he was cold and hungry, Mrs. Emna Brooks of No. 713 North Twelfth Brooks of No. 713 North I well in said, first met "Countess von Eppings set charges that Alex Pair, a negro II set charges that Alex Pair, a negro II said, first met "Countess von Eppings state and include the form a life never so fortunes to the burse, which the correction of the Car. She talked readings of time from a life never so fortunes and incidental cultivation of that art by held \$1.35. The defendant will be respondent, scenting copy, asked why she

BOOKS OF THE WEEK COVER A WIDE RANGE OF PRACTICAL SUBJECTS---SOME GOOD VERSE---NOTES AND GOSSIP.

THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION." Obviously "The Art of Cross-Examination," written by Francis L. Wellman, a prominent member of the New York bar, is primarily a lawyer's book, Secondarily It is a book that cannot fail to entertain a good many other people. It would be perhaps exaggeration to say that it is a human document of absorbing interest. but it is true that there are no stories more entertaining than those of real life, and there is no phase of "real life" more interesting than that exhibited in the courtroom upon the occasion of great trials, And the interest of a trial usually centers in the cross-examination of an im-

portant witness. such as Donovan's "Modern Jury Trials," Clinton's "Extraordinary Cases," Robinson's "Forensic Oratory" and numerous compilations of "celebrated cases," all of them dealing more or less with cross-examination, and many of them treating the subject didactically. Few books of this class possess the interest, either for the lawyer or for the layman, of Mr. Wellman's. His method is the inductive; he searches for the principles of cross-examination in the study of actual trials, rejecting what he denominates the a priori methods of text books. Although he has not attempted to treat the subject in a scientific, elaborate or exhaustive way, but merely to make some "suggestions," he quite fully illustrates the art which Cox termed the rarest, the most useful and the most difficult to be acquired of all the accomplishments of the advocate. "It has always been deemed the surest test of truth and a better security than

One of England's greatest advocates, at the conclusion of a long and eventful practice, concluded that "there is never a cause contested the result of which is not mainly dependent upon the skill with which the advocate conducts his crossexamination," and Mr. Wellman is of about the same opinion. Cross-examination, he maintains, requires the greatest ingenuity; a habit of logical thought clearness of perception in general; infinite patience and self-control; power to read men's minds intuitively; to judge of their characters by their faces; to appreciate their motives; ability to act with force and precision; a masterful knowledge of the subject matter itself; an extreme cau-tion; and, above all, the instinct to discover the weak point in the witness under examination.

Rare examples of intellectual swordplay are set forth, and in these consist the interest for the general reader, Several of them have been included in other works of the kind, but many of them are of recent occurrence, and are set forth in this form for the first time. Among the latter are Joseph Choate's cross-examination of Russell Sage in the Laidlaw-Sage case; the writer's cross-examination of Thomas J. Minnock in the Bellevue Hospital case; the cross-examination of a certain medical witness in the Carlyle Harris murder case. Among the older instances are Sir Charles Russell's crossexamination of Richard Pigott before the Parnell Commission, and Abraham Lincoln's cross-examination in the trial of Grayson, charged with murder.

Many humorous instances are described, mong them the following: "In a recent Metropolitan Street Railway case a witress who had been badgered rather persistently on cross-examination, finally straightened himself up in the witness chair and said, pertly: 'I have not come here asking you to play with me. Do you take me for Anna Held?' I was not thinking of Anna Held,' replied the counsel, quietly; 'supposing you try Ananias!' The witness was enraged, the jury laughed, and the lawyer, who had really made nothing out of the witness up to

this time, sat down." "These little triumphs are, however, by no means always one-sided. Often, if the counsel gives him an opening, a clever witness will counter on h.m in a most humiliating fashion, certain to meet with the hearty approval of jury and audience. At the Worster Assizes, in England, a case was being tried which involved the soundness of a horse, and a clergyman had been called as a witness, who succeeded only in giving a rather confused account of the transaction. A blustering counsel on the other side, after many attempts to get at the facts upon crossexamination, blurted out: 'Pray, sir, do you know the difference between a horse and s cow?" 'I acknowledge my ignorance.' replied the clergyman. 'I hardly do know the difference between a horse and a cow or between a bull and a bully-only a bull, I am told, has horns, and a bully (bowing respectfully to the counsel), luckily for me, has none." "The Art of Cross-Examination" is published by the McMillan Com-

MEMOIRS OF THE COURT

OF BERLIN. In "William II and His Consort," Heny W. Fisher, the well-known foreign correspondent, presents much of the private history of these rulers, and a good deal adopted this country as his permanent res-idence, comes of distinguished ancestry, his grandfather on his mother's side hav ing been Comte de Simeon, the great French jurist, who served the King of Westphalia as Prime Minister. The author's paternal grandfather was an offioer in the Rhenish Auxiliaries, who fol-lowed Napoleon to Russia. Baron Von Helldorf, an intimate friend of Emperor William, is a son of General, the Baron, Von Helldorf, who was Mr. Fisher's godfather. Thus it is apparent that the author's opportunity to glean intimate fact about the royal household was extraordinary. The "Memoirs" are taken from the papers and diaries, extending over a period from 1888 to 1898, "of Ursula Countess Von Eppinghoven, dame du palais to her Majesty, the Empress-Queen." The "Countess," for her part, gives only such incidents of the lives of William and his consort as have come under her personal observation, or that she knows of by reliable witnesses. the incidents which occurred before the present Emperor's enthronization are credited to the general gossip of the place The "Countess's" name, "Eppinghoven," is fictitious, used by the author for the purpose of shielding his informant. For, as the reader will readily believe after he has read some of the disclosures of the book, the "Countess" would speedily find herself in difficulty after the work reached Germany, should her identity be revealed. Fisher's informant, it is averred, was actually, up to about the date of the coronation of the Czar, hofdame, or lady-in waiting, as she would be called at an Engish court, in the personal service of the Kaiserin. She speaks throughout apparently from personal knowledge, and it is

difficult to conceive that she did not hold

the Empress and Emperor. Fisher, it is

said, first met "Countess Von Epping-hoven" in Moscow at the time of the

relations of some degree of intimacy with

ten years' service on paper. The result was the book, not penned by her, but made up of material which she furnished to Fisher. The work is in two velumes, handsomely prepared. It is alive with personality, and done in narrative that is sprightly. Fisher's Foreign Letters, Inc., of New York, are the publishers.

ECONOMICS, HISTORY,

PEDOGOGY, ART. As a rule, labor's history has been written by dry economists, who treat it as if it were the record of the advance of an economic doctrine. As well treat the history of a religious movement as the record | lished collection. Labor doctrines have never advanced except as they have been fived by viduals. Among the men who have borne a prominent part in the labor movement is Joseph H. Buchanan. In his book, "The Story of a Labor Agitator," just now issued by the Outlook Company, he narrates the events of his life with simplicity and directness, putting his own personality into the narrative without reserve, yet without self-assertion. The late Henry George was among these who urged him to prepare such an autobiography as he has now written John Swinton was another who urged him. Mr. Buchanan has seen fit to close his "Story of a Labor Agitator" with the suspension of his Chicago labor paper, dramatically described in the last chapter. Three weeks after closing his paper he was offered a salaried position by the American Press Association as the editor of its department of economics. In this position he is continuing his championship of the cause to which his earlier years were devoted. His book is a document of keenest interest, especially from the standpoint of to-day, illuminating from the inside, as it were, many present affairs. Buchanan is a courageous optimist, a fact which cannot escape the reader; and, despite the many sombre aspects of the subject with which he deals, there is shining through the pages the invincible theer and spirit of the narrator. Yet Buchanan suffers from no illusions. Pernaps the best to say of his treatment of the subject is that it is "sane."

No handsomer book has appeared in many months than "The History of Amerlean Sculp, ... e." by Laredo Taft, just from the press of the MacMillan Company, This work inaugurates a series-the other being Louis C. Edson's "History of American Music," Samuel Isham's "History of American Painting," and Joseph Pennell's "History of American Etching, Engraving and Illustration"-bringing together for the first time the materials for a complete survey of American art. Heretofore there have been narrations or descriptions of special periods or phases of our artistic development, but the narrative has never been consecutive or conclusive. The present volumes, of which the "History of American Sculpture" is the first to be published, begin with the founding of the nation and carry the record to the present. They are meant to cover graphic, the plastic, the illustrative, the architectural, the musical and the dra-matic arts, and to sum up the results in each department historically and critically. That the series should be authoritative, the preparation of each volume has been placed in the hands of an expertone who practices the craft whereof he writes. The series is therefore a history of American art, written from the artist's point of view, and should have especial value for that reason. If the initial vol-ume is a criterion of merit the series

Secretary John D. Long's "The New ing of interest in and dependence upon our navy. There have been generous appropriations by successive congresses for its continued increase in officers and men, in ships, and in all the facilities of naval construction. The object of Secretary Long's book is to give information as to the start and progress of the increase the development into what is now called the New Navy, as well as to tell of its recent exploits. With this purpose he as attempted not so much to make a picturesque story as to give an idea of the work done in the last half-dozen presidential terms by earnest members of Congress, by successive secretaries of the navy, by naval officers and seamen; also of the many arts that enter into the construction, armament, and equipment of our men-of-war; of the organization and ad-ministration of the various bureaus of the Navy Department, the great busy navy yards, and the steadily bettering life of all on shipboard; and of the achievements by which officers and enlisted men have added so much luster to the already shining record of the American Navy. Handsome illustrations accompany the text. To add that the book is absorbingly interesting is wholly superfluous.

James G. Moore's "The Science of Study" deals with the problem of educational work in recognition of the organic of modern secret history of the Court of interrelations of its physical, psychological Berlin. Henry W. Fisher, who long ago and sociological aspects, and in contemplation of the student period in its bear ings upon the future life work of the student. The theme is that the student him-self must be understood and his instruction adapted to his natural conditions of development, both those conditions which apply to him in common with all students, and also those conditions peculiarly individual; that education ought to prepare the student directly and organically, yet broadly and thoroughly, for a life work. The volume is a small one, and it will not be expected that so comprehensive a subject could be dealt with in other than general outlines. On the whole, the discussion appears to be awake to the best in recent pedagogical thought and experience, and endeavor has obviously been to deal with profound principles of student life in an impartial, simple and practical manner. Published by Hinds & Noble, New York, 35 West Fifteenth street.

"Character, a Moral Textbook," by Henry Varnum, is not an essay, as might be upposed, but a systematic grouping of the "accumulated teachings of all times." assembled from many sources in many lands, and "formulating those precepts which experience has rightly designated as the wisdom of ages." It consists of paragraphs and precepts upon almost every conceivable phase of character, and covers a broad field of ethics. Published by Hinds & Noble.

VERSE.

George Edward Woodberry's poems are ssued in a single volume by the Macmilian Company. In this have been collected practically all of his published verse and a considerable number of pieces hitherto either ancollected or unpublished. The volume represents the passing of many years, and begins from days almost exhibit the art with a perfection of finish. Woodberry's verses are in general marked by rhythm and by the alliterative sonance that makes for pleasant reading when not too pronounced. It is Woodberry's sentimental quality that is most distinguished-sentiment frequently characterized by exalted dignity, often by emotional power, sometimes by that which for want of fitting synonyms we style "sweetness";; sentiment at times clothed in rich poetle imagery, at others with the sheerest simplicity of diction Seekers for the best in the literature of the present hour will welcome the pub-

Ella Higginson, author of much verse, including "From the Land of the Snow Pearls," "When the Birds Go North Again," "Mariella of Out West" and "A Forest Orchid," puts forth a volume of verse under the title of "The Voice of April-Land and Other Poems," published by the Macmillans, Some seventy or more short pieces are included, many of them religious, many of the singularly beautiful in sentiment and marked by delicacy of expression.

"American Humorous Prose" and 'American Humorous Verse' are comvolumes issued by Herbert S. panion Stone & Co., the first being a collection of humorous and witty tales, sketches, etc., by the best American writers-such as Artemus Ward, Josh Billings, Mark Twain, Bill Nye, Marietta Holley, E. W. Townsend, John Kendrick Bangs, George Ade and Mr. Dooley; and the second collection covering a wide range and including verses by a veritable host of scribes. The two volumes would constitute diverting friends to have lying handy upon the book table.

NOTES AND GOSSIP.

We have this story from Gelett Burgess, coauthor with Will Irwin of "The Reign of Queen Isyl," about George Ade, whose last book of character sketches in pure English, "In Babel," seems to be making him a new reputation: "A short time ago Mr. Ade received a most flattering epistle from a young gentleman of the drug-clerk persuasion in a little West Virginia town. This gentleman declared that he thought Mr. Ade a "splendid writer," and that he thought Mr. Ade's stories 'just fine,' and 'awfully amusing' and was 'quite sure Mr. Ade himself was just as nice as he could be. The letter was signed something like 'Yours in devoted friendship, John Smith.' In course of time, Mr. Ade wrote back conventionally, saying that he appreciated the writer's kind words, etc. A week or so elapsed and Mr. Ade received a telegram as follows, from West Virginia: 'Grandmother died to-day, John Smith.'

The Reverend Ekal Kawaguchi, whose narrative of personal adventure in Thibet. "The Latest News From Lhasa," will be one of the more important articles in the January Century, is a priest of the Zen January Century, is a priest of the Zen Sect of Buddhists, now 38 years of age. He tory." By the Reverend William E. Randall. Was born in Sakai, near Osaka, studied at Published by Sacred Heart Church, Columbia. the Temple of the Five Hundred Rakan in Tokio, and prosecuted his Sanskrit studies under the Reverend Bunyu Nanjio of the Imperial University. He entered the priesthood at the age of 25 and was attached to the Obaku Temple at Ujl. After sever years in holy orders he started on his journey to Thibet, his sole object, as he explains in his narrative, to complete his studies of Buddhism. He declares also his intention of revisiting Nepal during 1904. stands vouched for. The photogravure to secure more collections of Buddhist plates are of highly superior quality and Scriptures in Sanskrit and also the Thibetan edition of the Tripitaka.

A number of reviewers have asked what American Navy" is forthcoming from the Outlook Company, in book form; two volumes. Many things in recent years have contributed to stimulate the national feelalleged fact that the familiar quotation is "she who hesitates," etc. As far as we can learn, there is no authority for this quotation, using either "who" or "that," although the phrase is current in every-day speech. Addison wrote in "Cato," Act IV: "The woman that deliberates is lost" and it is doubtless from this that the more familiar form grew. But the point to be noted is that Addison used the pronoun "that" in preference to "who." Modern authorities declare that "the relative 'that' may be used regardless of the gender of the antecedent, and that it is to be preferred to "who" or "which" when the relative clause is restrictive."

Funk & Wagnalls Company announce the publication on Wednesday, December 23, of "Easarbaddon, King of Assyria." a book containing three new tales by Leo Tolstoy, written for the benefit of the Kishenev sufferers. At first it was intended by the committee in charge of the relief fund to publish tales in a "Jewish Miscellany," a collection of contributions from various authors. In order to secure larger returns for the fund, it was, however, subsequently decided to publish Tolstoy's contributions separate from the rest and simultaneously in various languages and countries. To this departure from the original plan Tolstoy heartily agreed in

the following characteristic letter: "I am, of course, very pleased that non-Jewish editions should in any degree increase the help obtainable for the sufferers. But I cannot depart from the rule I have laid down for myself once for all, namely, to let everybody freely print what they like of my writings. I therefore give in aid of the sufferers only what I can give; the right of first publication. . . Do not send me any proofs, or else I am afraid I shall let the temptation to correct run away with me, and shall delay your publication. LEO TOLETOK. Yasnaya Polyana, 7 Sepember, o. s.

The tales are allegorical, illustrating with homely simplicity, yet with classic charm. Tolstoy's theories of nonresistance and the essential unity of all forms of

Miss Anna C. Brackett, who was the first woman principal of any normal school in America, that of St. Louis, is living in New York, where she has led an active educational and literary career for many years. She is chiefly known by her famous little volume on "The Technique of Rest," a book showing women how to preserve their health and beauty, and of which the Harpers have sold more copies than would be thought possible by any render who regards novels as the only Books that sell well.

A story is told of Stewart Edward White, whose "Silent Places" is now running as a serial in Outing, that he picked up his intimate knowledge of birds, and woods and streams while running as a boy by the side of his father, an active Michigan lumberman. From his father also he inherited that passion for exploration that has made possible his latest thrilling novel. A few years ago Caspar Whitney, editor out Outing, made an adventurous trip through the Barren Grounds. Little was known of this region before his journey and nothing has been added to what he told in his book. It is, therefore, peculiarly fitting that Mr. White's new novel should appear in Outing, because he has made the Barren

Grounds the living setting of his most

"The Pit" dramatization of the late Frank Norris's great novel, as produced with Wilton Lackage as Curtis Jadwin and 200 people and magnificent stage set-tings, has proved a great financial and artistic success in several Eastern cities, where it has been tried, and it will open the long Chicago engagement this month. The Chicago "pit" and Chicago society play, so Chicago will see the play and New York will have to wait, probably,

A BALLADE OF JEANNETTE.

She's joined the literary crew! More evanescent dreams she's had Than any girl you ever knew. But whatsoe'er she plans to do, No contradiction will she brook; And she assures me it is true That she's resolved to write a book!

She scorns our favors, and in Heu Thereof she takes her scribbling-pad. Though from her head she cannot screw
A plot, be any hook or crook,
Her pencil she delights to chew—
For she's resolved to write a book.

In ink-splashed cambric, now she's clad; Her hair is plaited in a queue; Strictly sub resa, I may add Her stockings are Bostonian blue: Nor will she listen when I woo. For she's resolved to write a book.

Girls, here's a splendld chance for you, To take the place Jeannette forsook; I'm looking for a sweetheart who

Books Received.

"The New American Navy." By John D. Long, Illustrated with drawings by Henry Reuterdahl and with photographs. In two vol-umes. Published by the Outlook Company, New York. Price 55.
"Character." A moral text-book. By Henry

Varnum. For the use of parents and teachers in training youth in the principles of conduct and an aid to self-culture. Published by Hinds

Fifty-seventh Congress, Second Session. Index to the subjects of the documents and re-ports, and to the committees. Senators and Rep-resentatives presenting them. With tables of the same in numerical order. Compiled under the direction of the Superintendent of Documents. Published by Government Printing

Office, Washington,
Ninth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Documents. For the fiscal year ended June

"A Book of American Prose Humor." Being a collection of humorous and witty tales, sketches, etc., composed by the best known American writers. Published by Herbert S.

Stone & Co., Chicago.

"A Book of American Humorous Verse." Being a collection of humorous and witty verse composed by the best known American writers. Published by Herbert S. Stone, Chicago.
"Friendship." The good and perfect gift.
By "Ruth" Ogden" (Mrs. Charles W. Ide). Published by Frederick A. Stokes Company. New York.
"Poems." By George Edward Woodberry.

Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. For sale by the St. Louis News Company. "The History of American Sculpture." By Lorado Taft. With twelve full-page photogravures and 104 illustrations in the text. Pub lished by the Macmillan Company, New York. For sale by the St. Louis News Company, "Mistakes and Misstatements of Myers; or,

Mo. From McKeown Bros., St. Louis.
"Napoleon the First; a Biography." By
August Fournier. Translated by Margaret Bacon Corwin and Arthur Dart Bissel. Edited by Edward Gaylord Bourne. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. "The K. K. K." By C. W. Tyler. North River Publishing House, New York.

"Famous American Statesmen and Orators." Past and present, with blographical sketches and their famous orations. In six volumes. Alexander K. McClure, L.L. D., editor. F. F. Lovell Publishing Company, New York, "Bunte Geschichten für Anfanger." By Erna M. Stoltze. Published by the American Book Company, New York. Price, 30 cents, "German Composition." With a review of grammar and syntax and with notes and a vo-

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Have you met the winsome Sally?

"SALLY," charming, adorable "Sally" (to quote the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH), with her duskygold radiance of hair,—the spirit incarnate of the wide, sweet land which has given her birth. Being such, one takes her for once and all to heart and loves her very truly in her character as a heroine and outside of it as a woman.

"Sally" is the delectable heroine in

Sally of Missouri

R. E. YOUNG'S

brisk romance of Zinc Boom days in the Ozarks

This is a real story of the real Southwest. It is a book that is delightfully written and filled with characters that the reader likes to remember and think over after finishing the book. It is a story of animation and color that will surely commend itself. PITTSBURG LEADER

An absorbing story of Missouri days of zinc and lead booming.

Handsomely bound in cloth, printed on fine paper, in a clear, beautiful type. Let your bookseller show you the book. If he hasn't it, we will send it to you, postpaid, for \$1.50

McClure, Phillips & Company

A Western Book by a Western Author-Second Edition.

From Behind the Veil

By ANDREW J. ARTHUR.

A Thrilling Story of the Ancient Teltecs. 12mo., Cloth. 419 Pages. \$1.25.

St. Louis, Mo. .

"This translation from the language of the Toltecs gives an idea of the civilization existing in Northern Mexico about the period 1006. * * The book is inspiring and well worth reading."—Christian Century, Chicago.

"I have read every page of 'From Behind the Veil,' and read from first to last with increasing interest. " "-Dr. B. B. Tyler, Pastor of The South Broadway Christian Church, Denver, Colo.

"It is an out-of-the-ordinary novel * * * of historical interest, and one that is apt to be finished when once begun."—St. Louis Republic.

"To Andrew J. Arthur. * * * in appreciation of his story, 'From Behind the Vell.' In all cordiality, Robert J. Burdette."

FOR SALE AT ALL BOOK STORES.

Propaid by the CHRISTIAN PUBLISHING Co., 1522 Locust St., St. Douis, Mo.

HUMANE SOCIETY REPORT. No Complaints Regarding Chil-

dren Were Received. An evidence that the Christmas spirit is abroad is to be found in the report of the Humane Society for the week ending December 17. No complaints regarding chil-"German Composition.

grammar and syntax and with notes and a vocabulary. By B. Mack Dressien, A. M. American Book Company, New York. Price, 40 cents.

"Fleid and Laboratory Exercises in Physical
Geography," By James F. Chamberlain. Price.
Geography," By James F. Chamberlain. Price.
Only three cases of general cruelty were
reported, six of whipping, three of overTonsitits, try a 10c bottle of Omega Oil.

loading, thirteen of driving when galled or lams, and three of depriving of food and shelter. Eight cases were remedled with-out prosecution. Three animals were taken from work, and nine animals killed as being unfit for further use.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 18.—The south shaft coal mine at Lincoln was burned

The New Magazine WITH TO-MORROW'S Sunday Republic.

Seven Pages in Brilliant Coloring.

Choice of the Frost.

A Capital Yarn by Herman Whitaker.

Where the Sword Never Sleeps. Illustrated in Colors.

Alligator and the Thick Skin. A Fable by W. B. Holland.

The Man With the Borrowed Ear

Apropos of a Recent Widely Heralded Surgical Incident.

Seeing Is Believing.

Clara Morris's Most Fascinating Story.

Jack the Giant Killer.

Wallace Irwin's Up-to-Date Fairy Tale.

A Drive for the Sake of Attention.

An Absorbing Novelette.

Discounting Merry Santa Claus.

A Full-Page Color Drawing of Child Life by Nosworthy.

The Temple of Learning.

A Whole Section Devoted to Topics of Interest to Children. Charmingly Illustrated in Colors.

SEE THE OTHER COLOR PICTURES.

Christmas in the Balkans and The Bear's Christmas.